

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Seth A. Leventhal, EMT, MS, PA-C
March 12, 2010

State of Connecticut: Senate Bill No.428: An Act Concerning Revisions To The Public Health Related Statues.

This testimony is given in support of Senate Bill 428. Senate Bill 428 contains provisions that would revise the recertification process for professional health care providers who want to remain certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). The current recertification process requires all EMT's to participate in a 25-hour refresher course, and pass both a written exam and practical skills exam.

Licensed health care providers are trained to a level that exceeds the training provided at the EMT basic level. The educational requirements for licensed / registered health care providers (Physicians, Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Nurses, Registered Nurses) exceed those required to obtain EMT basic level certification. Furthermore, licensed healthcare providers are mandated to participate in continuing medical education courses in order to maintain licensure. These continuing educational requirements often exceed those required for EMT recertification.

The current recertification process for professional healthcare providers who wish to maintain EMT certification is a lengthy process which does not substantially contribute to a core knowledge base. Senate Bill 428 recognizes the core knowledge base, advanced training, and professional continuing medical education requirements of licensed healthcare providers. The revisions would require that licensed healthcare providers maintain licensure in their designated health profession and satisfactorily demonstrate practical skills at the EMT level as required for EMT recertification.

These revisions are important to retain experienced, licensed healthcare professionals within the EMS system. Many skilled licensed healthcare professionals may leave EMS and give up EMT certification because of the onerous recertification process. These revisions will help maintain these licensed individuals within the EMS system without compromising patient care.

Thank you for your consideration.